



**CHESTERTON RURAL DISTRICT**

in the

**Administrative County of Cambridgeshire**

---

**ANNUAL REPORT**

of the

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

for

**1946**



# CHESTERTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
COUNTY HALL,  
HOBSON STREET,  
CAMBRIDGE.

*June, 1947.*

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Chesterton Rural District Council.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I present for your consideration my Annual Report for the year 1946 on the Health, Sanitary Conditions and vital Statistics of the Chesterton Rural District. There are no immediately urgent matters to which it is necessary to draw attention. The General Health of the population has, so far been well maintained.

ARTHUR MORGAN,  
Medical Officer of Health.



## GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area	...	...	...	...	...	111,692 acres
Number of Parishes	...	...	...	...	...	53
Estimated Resident Population	...	...	...	...	...	33,840
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£138,905
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£560
Number of Inhabited Houses according to Rate Book	...	...	...	...	...	10,195

The district is agricultural in character and the principal occupations are those associated with farming, fruit growing, jam making, etc.

### EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

#### Live Births:—

			Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	...	...	581	301	280
Illegitimate	...	...	70	37	33
Totals	...	...	651	338	313
Birth rate per thousand estimated population	...	...	...	...	19.2
Birth rate per thousand population (England and Wales)	...	...	...	...	19.1

#### Stillbirths:—

			Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	...	...	13	9	4
Illegitimate	...	...	1	—	1
Totals	...	...	14	9	5
Rate per thousand total (Live and Stillbirths)	...	...	...	...	21.0

#### Deaths:—

			Total	Male	Female
	...	...	387	198	189
Death rate per thousand estimated population	...	...	...	...	11.4
Death rate per thousand population (England and Wales)	...	...	...	...	11.5

#### Death from Puerperal Causes:—

(a) Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b) Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	...	1
Rate per thousand (Live and Stillbirths)	...	...	...	...	1.5

#### Deaths of Infants under one year of age:—

			Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	...	...	19	14	5
Illegitimate	...	...	7	3	4
	...	...	26	17	9

#### Death rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All Infants per thousand live births	...	...	...	...	39.9
Legitimate Infants per thousand Legitimate Live Births	...	...	...	...	32.7

Illegitimate Infants per thousand Illegitimate Live Births	100.0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... ..	54
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... ..	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ..	Nil
Deaths from Influenza (all ages) ... ..	5
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ... ..	5
Births and Death rates for the last six years as compared with the year under review:—	
	1940    1941    1942    1943    1944    1945    1946
Birth rate	12.0    12.5    16.6    15.8    19.4    18.2    19.2
Death rate	15.8    14.1    11.6    10.4    11.9    13.0    11.4

### Classification of Deaths under Age Groups

Ages	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year	17	9	26
1 and under 2	1	—	1
2    "    5	1	—	1
5    "    15	2	—	2
15    "    25	3	4	7
25    "    35	5	4	9
35    "    45	5	6	11
45    "    55	18	5	23
55    "    65	26	16	42
65    "    75	44	40	84
75 and over	76	105	181
Totals	198	189	387

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

### PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY:—

Medical Officer of Health:—A whole-time Officer who also acts for all the Rural Districts in the County.

Sanitary Inspectors:—The normal staff of Chief Sanitary Inspector and two district inspectors was completed during the year. One Inspector returned to duty from H.M. Forces in December, 1945, and one additional Inspector being appointed in June, 1946.

### LABORATORY FACILITIES:—

Chemical analyses and bacteriological examinations of water, etc., are made by the Public Analyst at Cambridge. Specimens for bacteriological examination in connection with infectious diseases are sent to the Emergency Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge. Samples of milk are examined at the School of Agriculture, University of Cambridge.

### HOSPITALS:—

Cases of infectious disease are treated at the Cambridge Borough Isolation Hospital by agreement. The Oakington Isolation Hospital was closed in February, 1938, and has since been taken over by the Cambridgeshire County Council for use as a smallpox hospital in the event of an emergency.



So far as general hospitals are concerned, Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge, deals with the majority of cases from this area.

The only hospitals in the area are the Mental Hospital at Fulbourn and that for the treatment of Tuberculosis in connection with Papworth Colony.

### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following is a summary of the inspections carried out during 1946:—

Total inspections recorded	...	...	...	...	4,204
Inspections made under Milk and Dairies Orders	...	...	...	...	566
Inspections under the Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	489
Visits re Requisitioning, Squatters, etc.	...	...	...	...	410
Inspection of Food Premises	...	...	...	...	459
Inspection of Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	113
Bakehouse Inspections	...	...	...	...	66
Shops Acts	...	...	...	...	117
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	178
Infectious cases removed	...	...	...	...	28
Houses fumigated	...	...	...	...	56
Samples of Water taken	...	...	...	...	67
Inspections under the Factories Acts	...	...	...	...	168
Schools Visited	...	...	...	...	12
Visits re Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	...	297
Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	76
Visits re new drainage	...	...	...	...	153
Visits re complaints	...	...	...	...	786

### HOUSING:

Number of houses erected by the Local Authority 18 (permanent)  
50 (prefab).

Number of houses built or in course of erection by private enterprise ... 16

Number of houses repaired by means of grants under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts ... Nil

Summary of action taken under the Housing Acts during the year:—

Houses Inspected	...	...	...	...	240
Re-inspections made	...	...	...	...	249
Demolition Orders made	...	...	...	...	Nil
Houses demolished	...	...	...	...	Nil
Undertakings (Sec. 11) accepted	...	...	...	...	8
Houses made fit	...	...	...	...	69

Since the passing of the Housing Act, 1930, the following action has been taken:—

Houses demolished	...	...	...	...	377
Houses demolished (voluntarily)	...	...	...	...	10
Houses in respect of which undertakings (Sec. 11) have been accepted	...	...	...	...	58
Houses (or parts) closed	...	...	...	...	4
Houses made fit by formal action	...	...	...	...	17
Houses made fit by informal action	...	...	...	...	614

*Note.—These figures are totals up to 31.3.47.*

The scarcity of building labour, particularly in the more rural areas, continues to be acute, and it has been found impossible to deal with more than the essential maintenance repairs, and these only with difficulty. The majority of the work has been executed as a result of informal action under the Public Health Act, 1936. The work of the Department in this sphere is becoming almost impossible owing to the extremely low permitted rent in many cases under the Rent Restrictions Acts which now bear no relation to the substantially increased cost of repairs and maintenance. Formal action in such cases is difficult and normal demolition procedure is precluded owing to the impossibility of rehousing the tenants. As a consequence there are many families required to live in sub-standard cottages which cannot be repaired at a reasonable cost. Only the provision of new houses can remedy such a state of affairs but a revision of the Rent Restrictions Acts in the light of present-day costs would be of considerable value. The greatest difficulty is being experienced in securing the services of thatchers in the area and it would appear that this craft is dying out. With such a large number of thatched cottages in the area, the problem will become acute unless young craftsmen can be trained to replace the old ones.

The Rural Housing Survey, held to be somewhat premature by the County Joint Housing Committee, has not yet been carried out.

It is significant to note that although the Council have erected 1,387 Council houses since 1919 that total number of applicants awaiting accommodation at the end of 1946 was 1,719, an increase of approximately 600 since the end of 1945.

#### REQUISITIONING

The Chief Sanitary Inspector has been responsible for the requisitioning of premises for persons inadequately housed, and the reconditioning and conversion of such premises into flats where necessary. At the end of the year under review 56 properties were retained by the Council on requisitioning orders providing accommodation for 67 family units. A considerable amount of work has been carried out in this connection and its value should not be under-estimated. Members of the public in search of houses derive some comfort in knowing that houses cannot remain unoccupied for unreasonable periods without action by the local authority.

#### TEMPORARY HUTMENTS

In common with many other districts squatters took possession of a number of ex-military sites in this area during the autumn of 1946. Wherever possible the sites have been transferred to the Authority, and the Chief Sanitary Inspector has carried out emergency work to render the huts reasonably habitable.

At two sites comprising 22 huts, work is almost complete and the transfer of additional sites is under negotiation.

#### WATER SUPPLY:—

Since the comprehensive statement contained in my Report for 1945, a further three parishes (Coton, Fen Drayton and Lolworth) have been supplied by mains and a small mains extension carried out at Longstanton All Saints. The following table gives brief details of the remaining parishes without a piped supply:—



Parish	Population (1942)	Estimated water requirements Gallons per day			Suggested source of supply
		Humans (20 galls. each)	Stock	Total	
Barton	482	9,640	3,554	13,194	Kingston, Bourn and Fenstanton wells of the Chesterton and St. Ives Joint Water Board
Childerley*	—	—	1,885	1,885	
Comberton	539	10,780	4,513	15,293	
Croxton	193	3,860	7,449	11,309	
Dry Drayton	410	8,200	6,543	14,743	
Eltisley	283	5,660	4,890	10,550	
Graveley	176	3,520	2,402	5,922	
Hardwick	444	8,880	2,444	11,324	
Harlton	289	5,780	2,110	7,890	
Haslingfield	685	13,700	7,498	21,198	
Papworth St. Agnes	103	2,060	1,271	3,331	
Toft	257	5,140	2,558	7,698	
Totals	3,861	77,220	47,117	124,337	
Hauxton	309	6,180	574	6,754	Cambridge Water Company
Newton	257	5,140	138	5,278	
Horningssea	327	6,540	6,662	13,202	
Landbeach	464	9,280	6,828	16,108	
Totals	1,357	27,140	14,202	41,342	

\* Included with Dry Drayton.

## SUFFICIENCY OF SUPPLY:—

During the year it was necessary to cart water as follows:

Parish	Gallons per week	Duration
Hardwick (part)	1,500	whole year
Papworth St. Agnes	500	whole year
Toft	1,000	whole year
Dry Drayton	1,000	whole year
Eltisley (part)	500	whole year
Caldecote	250	8 weeks only

A scheme has been prepared to supply the five parishes in the Western Area (Barton, Comberton, Toft, Haslingfield, Harlton) and it is anticipated that the work will be put in hand during the coming year. Owing to the procedure involved under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944, and the Water Act, 1945, it was not found possible to carry out the mains extension to the parish of Hauxton as anticipated. This work will be carried out during 1947.



In the case of Caldecote, water was carted temporarily to a school until an alternative supply could be afforded. In the remaining five parishes it will be necessary to continue this service until mains are available. Several parishes, notably Croxton, Eltisley, Graveley, Hardwick and Dry Drayton, are extremely short of water for domestic and stock purposes and trouble is anticipated in the summer months. The position cannot be improved until a new high level water tower is erected thereby affording sufficient pressure to enable a mains supply to be taken to these villages.

As a result of the inadequacy of the supply afforded by the Council's Waterworks in the parish of Cottenham, a supply has been taken in bulk from the Company's main at the Histon boundary and the Cottenham Waterworks abandoned. In addition, some difficulty is anticipated in this parish owing to the age and small diameter of some of the distribution mains. This is aggravated in the summer months by the large quantity of water utilized for horticultural purposes.

#### CHLORINATION:—

With the exception of two works serving single parishes (Harston and Willingham) all public supplies are chlorinated.

#### SAMPLING:—

The public supplies are sampled monthly for chemical analysis and bacteriological examination and, apart from high hardness figures, the results have been satisfactory. Regard should be had to the possibility of softening the Over supply where the hardness figure reaches 36 degrees (Clarkes Scale) on occasions.

#### TYPICAL RESULTS OF ANALYSES OF PUBLIC SUPPLIES

Test	Cambridge Water Co.	Willingham Waterworks	Joint Water Board	Harston Waterworks	Over Waterworks
Physical Characters	good	good	good	good	good
Reaction (pH value)	7.5	7.3	7.4	7.9	7.2
Parts per 100,000					
Chlorine	2.2	3.05	8.75	2.20	5.75
Ammonia (free and saline)	absent	absent	0.0078	0.0054	0.0202
Ammonia (albuminoid)	0.0008	0.006	0.0006	0.0016	0.0196
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hours at 37°C.	0.0262	0.0342	0.0316	0.0217	0.2072
Nitrites	0.55	0.90	absent	absent	absent
Nitrates	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Poisonous Metals	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
<i>Bacteriological Examination</i>					
Coliform organisms in 100 mls.	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
No. of microorganisms per ml developing at 37°C.	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Ditto at 21°C.	nil	2	2	4	1
Hardness (grains per gall.)	7.4	22.38	19.90	3.18	29.66

# PUBLIC CLEANSING :—

During the year under review, the Council's scheme for providing a refuse collection from every parish in their area, by direct labour, has been realised, by the purchase of a third Karrier Bantam 7 cubic yard Refuse Vehicle.

Collections are now undertaken as follows :—

## COLLECTIONS 1946

House Refuse							
Weekly	Hses.	Fortnightly	Hses.	Monthly	Hses.	By Request	Hses.
Girton	553	Waterbeach	444	Barton	171	Childerley	7
Histon	790	Landbeach	185	Bourn	221	Conington	31
Impington	389	Milton	195	Boxworth	57	Croxton	60
Gt. Shelford	723	Hauxton	108	Caxton	94	Eltisley	87
Lt. Shelford	172	Harston	275	Caldecote	105	Graveley	45
Stapleford	245			Cottenham	794	Newton	86
				Coton	111	Knapwell	28
				Comberton	189	Pap. St.	
				Dry Drayton	111	Agnes	28
				Fen Ditton	170		
				Fulbourn	408		
				Grantchester	156		
				Elsworth	134		
				Fen Drayton	181		
				Haslingfield	208		
				Harlton	74		
				Horningsea	107		
				Hardwick	144		
				Lolworth	32		
				Longstantons	126		
				Madingley	58		
				Oakington )			
				Westwick )	159		
				Over	302		
				Rampton	68		
				Quy	106		
				Toft	74		
				Swavesey	263		
				Teversham	134		
				Wilbraham Gt.	222		
				Wilbraham Lt.			
				Willingham	504		
6 parishes	2,872	5 parishes	1,207	33 parishes	5,483	8 parishes	372

## Night Soil

Weekly	Houses
Waterbeach	444
Grantchester (part) by contract	45
2 parishes	489

It will be seen that the semi-urban parishes adjoining Cambridge now have a weekly collection and the remaining parishes a monthly collection



with the exception of eight small parishes where collections are arranged by request.

It is estimated that for the year ending 31st December, 1946, 3,133 tons of house refuse were collected and disposed of and 17,218 bucket clearances were made.

Disposal is by controlled tipping and at present three tips are in use. Negotiations are in hand to acquire a fourth tip at Fen Drayton. Some difficulty has been experienced in maintaining the tips in good condition owing to insufficient labour and the fact that all covering material has to be transported. The absence of a proper depot also presents a problem since the accommodation, supervision and maintenance of vehicles cannot be carried out as effectively as one would wish.

I am pleased with the progress made with this service which is proving of material benefit to the community generally.

Since the collection of salvage has been undertaken with the refuse vehicles, some improvement has been effected—approximately 15 tons of waste paper being collected during the year. It is hoped to increase this figure substantially in the coming year.

In view of the short period the full scheme has been operating, detailed costs have not been attempted but on six months' operating the following figures were obtained:—

#### HOUSE REFUSE:—

Cost per ton (collection and disposal)	...	...	17s.
Cost per house cleared	...	...	4d.
Estimated mileage per ton	...	...	9
Cost per mile	...	...	6½d.

#### NIGHTSOIL COLLECTION (direct labour)

Approximate cost per bucket clearance	...	...	4d.
Contract price per bucket clearance	...	...	6d.

At the present time arrangements exist whereby cesspools can be emptied mechanically by private contract, although it is anticipated that the Council will obtain delivery of a new cesspool emptier in 1947 and undertake much of this work themselves.

#### SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS:—

There are no public or privately owned baths or pools in the district which are open to the public.

#### SHOPS ACT, 1934:—

There are 268 shops of various categories on the register and more than half are in conjunction with private houses. In these cases the available sanitary accommodation serves both premises. 117 visits were paid to shops during the year in connection with the above Act and in no instance was formal action necessary. Special consideration has been given to food shops and many improvements have been carried out under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938—see report later. The small mixed village store still presents rather a problem and a somewhat liberal interpretation of the Act must be allowed.

#### MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES:—

With the acute housing shortage an increased number of persons occupying caravans as a temporary expedient is only to be expected. Con-

sequently every effort has been made to permit only genuine trailer-type caravans and to refuse licences for 'shack' dwellings. The control of camping in the vicinity of river beauty spots continues, to safeguard to a large extent the natural amenities, and owners of land have co-operated fully in this connection. The usual seasonal influx of caravan dwellers for the fruit picking season was noted but in no case was formal action necessary.

Number of Licences issued for sites	...	...	...	8
Maximum number of vehicles involved	...	...	...	33
Number of Licences issued for single caravans	...	...	...	2
Number of Licences refused	...	...	...	5

## VERMINOUS PREMISES AND PERSONS

The district remains fairly free from infestation and few complaints have been received during the year. This may be due in some measure to the marketing of various products containing D.D.T. which are now available to householders generally. Aged and infirm persons living alone still constitute the principle problem in this connection and the provision of more institutional accommodation for this class of case would be of considerable assistance. It is also recommended that more small flats and bungalows should be provided by the housing authorities where old people can receive personal assistance and can take advantage of communal facilities.

Visits and inquiries re verminous premises and/or persons	...	...	...	36
Premises fumigated for bugs	...	...	...	6
" " " fleas	...	...	...	12
" " " other reasons	...	...	...	3

No action was necessary under the Scabies Order, 1941, and one is pleased to record that the incidence of this disease remains extremely small.

## RODENT DESTRUCTION

The Rats and Mice (Destruction) Acts and the Infestation Order, 1943, are administered by the County Council through the agency of the War Agricultural Executive Committee. This arrangement has the advantage that all the duties in this connection are carried out by one authority. Suitable contracts are entered into for the regular clearance of Council's property such as refuse tips, etc.

## DRAINAGE AND CLOSET ACCOMMODATION:—

Visits in connection with new drainage	...	...	153
House drains, repaired or renewed	...	...	27
Closet accommodation new or repaired	...	...	21

The increased distribution of piped water supplies merely intensifies the problem of sewage disposal especially in an area of this character where the absence of fall and the heavy subsoil provide practical difficulties. The provision of a cesspool in accordance with the Byelaws cannot be considered adequate for premises with modern conveniences and much has been done by the Department to encourage the provision of small treatment plants wherever possible. The convenient grouping of new houses would facilitate better drainage arrangements. There is an urgent need for sewerage, particularly in the parishes of Girton, Gt. Shelford and Cottenham and it is confidently anticipated that the major scheme for sewerage the six semi-urban parishes adjoining the Borough will receive approval in the coming year.



## SCHOOLS: —

With the advent of the new Education Act a much higher standard for school premises is envisaged. Schemes are already in hand in respect of a number of schools and direct action by the District Council is no longer necessary, except where nuisance arises. Twelve visits were paid to schools during the year and in one case the water supply was improved as a result of informal action.

## INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

### MILK SUPPLY: —

In a large rural area of this kind it is natural that considerable attention should be paid to supervision of milk production and distribution under the Milk and Dairies Regulations. The general standard of premises remains fairly high and every effort continues to be made to encourage producers to improve their premises. The introduction of the National Milk Testing and Advisory Service has done much to bring home to the smaller producers the advantages of clean modern premises and equipment although the number of authorities and offices having an interest in this sphere tends to be confusing.

Number of Wholesale Producers on Register ...	...	177
Number of Retail Producers on Register ...	...	44
Number of Wholesale and Retail Producers ...	...	21
Number of Retail Purveyors ...	...	15

The Cambridgeshire County Council administers the Milk (Special Designations) Orders and included in the above figures are 61 "Accredited" producers and 36 holding "Tuberculin Tested" licences (approximately 25% and 15% of all producers respectively). There are no pasteurizing plants in this area. Sampling by the Public Health Department is now only undertaken for special investigation purposes.

Improvements carried out to cowsheds and dairies by informal action: —

Notices served ...	...	118
New cowsheds constructed ...	...	2
Cowsheds improved, new floors, etc. ...	...	8
New drainage ...	...	7
Yards improved ...	...	5
Water Supply laid on or improved ...	...	8
New Dairies built ...	...	12
Dairies improved ...	...	3
New machine, coolers, sterilizers, etc. ....	...	7

### BAKEHOUSES: —

Number on Register ...	...	23
Inspections recorded ...	...	66
Notices served and complied with ...	...	2

These premises are mainly small village bakehouses and the requirements of the Factories Act and Food and Drugs Act, 1938, are complied with. One bakery has been completely modernised during the year and new linings provided to troughs at another as a result of action by the Department. The use of one small unsatisfactory bakehouse has been discontinued.

## PRESERVED FOOD PREMISES (Sec. 14 Food and Drugs Act, 1938.)

Number on Register	...	...	...	...	45
Inspections made	...	...	...	...	113
Notices served	...	...	...	...	12

These premises include 24 butchers' premises where sausages, etc., are prepared. Seven fried fish shops and 14 premises where ice cream is sold. There are no manufacturers of ice cream in the area.

Considerable attention has been paid to the improvement of these premises and in particular occupiers have been required to provide washing facilities where necessary. The following improvements have been recorded up to the end of the year:—

Improvement to premises, redecoration, etc.	...	...	...	...	2
Water laid on	...	...	...	...	1
Constant supply of hot water provided	...	...	...	...	4
New or improved drainage	...	...	...	...	2

## FOOD SHOPS AND CAFES AND OTHER FOOD PREMISES

Visits paid:—

Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	113
Feeding Centres	...	...	...	...	3
Retail Dairies	...	...	...	...	32
Food Shops	...	...	...	...	181
Cafes, Restaurants, etc.	...	...	...	...	17
Other food premises, N.A.A.F.I. stores, etc.	...	...	...	...	13

With the return of more staff the inspection of premises where food is prepared or stored has received considerable attention, with particular reference to the provisions of Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Particular emphasis has been laid on the importance of really adequate washing facilities for staff and the occupiers have co-operated well in this respect. As a result of informal action (including the service of 28 informal notices) the following improvements have been recorded.

New shop premises built	...	...	...	...	1
Premises modernised, repaired or redecorated	...	...	...	...	11
Water laid on	...	...	...	...	8
Constant hot water laid on	...	...	...	...	11
New sinks installed	...	...	...	...	8
New drainage	...	...	...	...	5
New food storage	...	...	...	...	1
Improved sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	1
Yards and surroundings improved	...	...	...	...	2

The raising of the standard of these premises is viewed with satisfaction, more especially having regard to the difficulties in obtaining the necessary materials and labour. It is anticipated that further improvements will be effected during 1947.

## LICENSED PREMISES:—

For some time past concern has been felt at the poor sanitary accommodation and facilities provided at licensed premises in the area and opportunity was made during the year to carry out a comprehensive survey of such premises.

Number of Licensed Premises inspected	...	...	...	...	154
Number of inspections made	...	...	...	...	178



### Summary of Sanitary Defects Found

Entire absence of closet accommodation for public ...	35
Absence of closet accommodation for males ...	50
Absence of closet accommodation for females ...	21
Unsuitable, insanitary or defective closet accommodation	25
Absence of urinal accommodation ...	2
Unsuitable, defective or insanitary urinal ...	50
Absence of drainage ...	1
Unsuitable or defective drainage ...	12
Absence of proper sink for glass washing ...	87
Absence of constant supply of hot water ...	137
Premises in bad repair or bad state of decoration ...	37
Premises with no water laid on ...	58
Premises with inadequate ground space ...	11
Premises in good order ...	10
Other defects ...	4

Perhaps the worst feature revealed by the survey is the absence of proper facilities for glass washing apparent at 87 houses and the absence of a constant hot water supply at 137 houses.

Having regard to the ease with which certain diseases may be disseminated by infected glasses and utensils, this state of affairs requires remedy without delay.

After consultation with the Ministry of Works it was felt that some concern might be expressed by the public generally if a heavy programme of alterations to these houses were embarked upon when homes are so urgently required. Accordingly the brewers were acquainted with the position and requested to raise the standard of their premises generally as a long-term policy and to remedy the more urgent defects as quickly as possible. Although progress must of necessity be slow, most brewers are co-operating well and in many cases schemes are already in hand for improvement.

### MEAT AND OTHER FOODS:—

Private slaughtering was discontinued in 1940 and meat for the whole district is supplied from Government slaughter-houses and depots in Cambridge. The supervision of butchers' premises and vehicles continues to receive attention and frequent visits are paid for the purpose of examining the meat.

There is still room for improvement in the manner in which meat is transported from Cambridge although no formal action was necessary during the year.

### SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933

Licences to slaughter renewed ...	Nil
New Licences granted ...	1
Total on register 31.12.46 ...	27

Apart from the occasional slaughter of a casualty animal and of pigs under permit little killing takes place in the area. The administration of the Act with regard to humane slaughter is rendered difficult in these cases as private owners are not always required to have their pigs killed in a proper slaughter-house. No known case of infringement of the Act was revealed during the year.

## OFFENSIVE TRADES:—

Apart from one licensed Knackers Yard there are no offensive trades in the area. Only a very small amount of slaughtering takes place on these premises.

## UNSOUND FOODSTUFFS:—

The abbreviated list below will give some indication of the variety of goods dealt with during the year. The majority of the articles were condemned in small amounts as a result of routine inspection of food shops and stores. The unfit meat was mostly condemned owing to taint and decomposition during transit or storage, and it is satisfactory to note that in only one case was diseased meat delivered for sale and this was quickly noted and reported to the Department. The large amounts of fruit pulp appearing in the summary were condemned at a local jam factory owing to fermentation and deterioration during transit.

### Summary of Foodstuffs Condemned

#### HOME KILLED MEAT:—

245½ lbs. beef (miscellaneous)  
One whole carcase pork and offal.

#### IMPORTED MEAT:—

156¼ lbs. beef (miscellaneous). 7 lbs. mutton.

#### TINNED GOODS:—

Meat	...	...	...	...	40 tins
Fish	...	...	...	...	4 tins
Milk	...	...	...	...	35 tins
Soups, Vegetables	...	...	...	...	62 tins
Fruit	...	...	...	...	72 tins

#### FRUIT, VEGETABLES, ETC.

Dried figs	...	...	...	...	42 lbs.
Oranges	...	...	...	...	131 lbs.
Tomatoes	...	...	...	...	161 lbs.
Prunes	...	...	...	...	55 lbs.
Bitter orange pulp (40-gall. casks)	...	...	...	...	59
Lemon skins	...	...	...	...	1 cask
Grape fruit pulp (6-lb. tins)	...	...	...	...	300

#### RATIONED GOODS

Rice	...	...	...	...	315 lbs.
Butter, Margarine, etc.	...	...	...	...	14 lbs.
Cheese	...	...	...	...	5½ lbs.
Macaroni	...	...	...	...	14 cwts.
Flour	...	...	...	...	10 stone
Bacon	...	...	...	...	1½ lbs.
Cereals, etc.	...	...	...	...	1½ lbs.
Pork Luncheon Meat	...	...	...	...	6 lbs.

#### FISH

Filleted Cod	...	...	...	...	20 stone
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#### MISCELLANEOUS

Licquorice Sweets	...	...	...	...	2 lbs.
Pickles	...	...	...	...	3 galls.
Lemon Curd	...	...	...	...	7 lbs.



Wherever possible, condemned foodstuffs were utilized for animal feeding purposes under the supervision of the Salvage Officer of the Ministry of Food.

The destination of all condemned and damaged foodstuffs consigned into this area for manufacturing or animal feeding purposes was checked.

#### FACTORIES:—

A summary of the work carried out under the Factories Acts is appended below :—

Number of Factories with mechanical power	...	80
Number of factories without mechanical power	...	25
Inspections carried out	...	168
Notices served	...	23
Notification of outworkers received	...	8
Infected premises	...	Nil

The notices served were mainly in connection with the cleansing and limewashing of premises and were all complied with. In addition a case of overcrowding was abated in one factory, ventilation and heating arrangements improved in two others and additional sanitary accommodation was also provided at another.

### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The following table shows the number of cases notified together with the age incidence.

Disease	Total cases notified	At Ages—Years												Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
		1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65		
Scarlet Fever	23	—	—	1	3	5	8	3	2	1	—	—	—	20	—
Measles	177	1	12	8	13	27	104	12	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Whooping Cough	19	1	2	5	3	3	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Para-Typhoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery— (Flexner)	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	4	8	8	25	—
Dysentery— (Sonne)	2	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	16	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	5	5	3	1	10
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	—
Erysipelas	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—
Diphtheria (suspected)	4	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	4	—
Total	272	2	15	15	20	36	117	15	4	11	11	15	11	55	10

It will be seen from the above table that there has been no particular incidence of the major infectious diseases. The cases of Flexner Dysentery were confined to a mental institution situated in the area none occurring among the general population. The arrangements for Diphtheria immunisation remain the same and have continued to function satisfactorily. It is estimated that 82% of children under five years of age and 76% of those between five and fifteen have been fully protected. The estimated popula-

tion (mid 1946) in these age groups is 2,730 and 4,190 respectively. The two cases of Diphtheria occurred in persons not immunised, but the disease was contracted outside the area. Two other suspected cases were removed to hospital but they were found to be Vincents Angina and a streptococcal infection.

### TUBERCULOSIS

#### New cases and Mortality during 1946

Age Years	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5	1	1	2	2	—	—	—	—
15	2	3	—	—	1	2	—	—
25	3	7	1	—	3	2	—	—
35	3	4	—	1	2	3	—	—
45	2	1	—	—	1	1	—	1
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65+	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	13	18	4	4	7	8	—	1

Four cases had not been notified before death.

No action has been called for under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1935, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

(Signed) ARTHUR MORGAN, M.A., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.





